

Public opinion is shaped largely by what the public sees and hears on the publicly owned radio & TV airwaves. Allowing such consolidation of the control of the public airwaves into the hands of a few corporations puts defacto control of public opinion into the hands of these corporations. THIS CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE! Pappas Telecasting Companies' 'donation' of \$325,000 in airtime to Republican candidates in certain areas is yet another example of a powerful media group abusing its privileged access to the public airwaves. This most assuredly is NOT what the framers of the Constitution and Bill of Rights had in mind when they set up protection for Free Speech!

Democracy is not served when a corporate headquarters decides to provide one side in local elections a louder voice than others. During election season, local audiences should be offered genuine debate -- not disingenuous offers to "purchase" an equal amount of response time.

Pappas uses the public airwaves free of charge and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Pappas' actions are legally questionable and leave NO doubt that they have NO intention of serving the public interest. They are obviously serving only THEIR OWN interest. Their actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Further, they show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than just a returned postcard. Thank you.